Operationalisation of first phase of Karwar Naval Base

799. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the first phase of the Naval Base in Karwar is likely to become operational;

(b) what is the amount spent so far;

(c) the amount required to complete the first phase; and

(d) when will the next phase be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) By October, 2005.

(b)Rs. 1457.58 crore.

(c) Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2459.20 crore to complete the first phase.

(d) No definite time-frame can be given. The present Government approval is for first phase only.

Selling of missiles to other countries

800. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed in principle to sell Aakash, Trishul, Nag Missiles to other countries of the world;

(b) whether DRDO has created a separate wing to deal with marketing these missiles; and

(c) what steps the Ministry has taken to make India a pioneer in the defence technology in the world?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry has taken following steps to strengthen development of defence technology:

Enhancing synergy between development and production agencies

and User Services by periodically holding discipline-wise meeting of cluster of laboratories, R&D Panel, Management Councils, Ordnance Factories, Defence PSU's and the User Services.

Creating consortium of academia, research laboratories/centers and industries to pool national resources of talent infrastructure and expertise.

Establishing Research Boards in specialized areas to foster and enthuse research in military technology and to create centers of excellence.

Acquisition of indigenously manufactured defence equipment

801. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to spend 40 per cent of capital expenditure every year on acquisition of indigenously manufactured defence equipment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Capital procurement for the Armed Forces is made on the basis of requirements of each service keeping in view the threat perception, the equipment with the adversary, availability of resources etc. The procurement of complex weapon platforms is initially done from abroad. Where compatible indigenous equipment is available, it is installed as buyers furnished equipment. In cases where large volumes justify, transfer of technology is resorted to and production taken up, in phases, in the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) or Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Most of the requirements of ammunition for the Army are produced indigenously by OFB.